Coin Topics

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Announcement

This publication will be sent you every once in awhile with our compliments. It is our purpose to make it more than a "price list". We are going to tell the stories and incidents connected with the many interesting coins you may have, or wish to have, in your collection.

Many inexpensive coins, of great historical importance are neglected by collectors in America. We believe the reason for this neglect is chiefly because the associated stories seldom appear in print. They are hidden away in books that are expensive if not altogether impossible to obtain. Or in books written in a foreign language that is not easily translated by the average collector. It is not our intention to publicize coins that are beyond the reach of most collectors. In our opinion, a tetradrachm of Alexander the Great or an antoninianus of Diocletianus are coins worthy of a place in any collection. These, and many other inexpensive coins, of similar historical importance will be given recognition in following issues.

If Coin Topics helps you in forming a really interesting cabinet of coins we will consider our efforts worthwhile.

We would appreciate knowing your opinion of our form of advertising. An occasional comment or order will keep you on our regular mailing list.

Mithradates The Great B.C. 120-63

Few rulers have been more worthy of the epithet "great" than was Mithradates VI. At the age of eleven he succeeded his father as King of

Pontus. Alarmed at the attempts made upon his life by his mother, he fled to the mountains and was for many years a hunter. In III B.C. he returned to Sinope, established himself on the throne and turned to conquest. He rapidly overran Galatia, Phrygia and Asia, defeated the Roman armies, and ordered a general massacre of the Romans in Asia.

Like most remarkable rulers he struck coins of much merit. The one illustrated above was struck in the year 75 B.C. It is supposed to have been copied from a silver statue mentioned by Pliny. The hair, blown back by the wind, indicates that the original may have been either an equestrian or that of a charioteer. It is the best portrait coin of that period and one of the most interesting of all times. We have in stock, several specimens in quite fine condition.

Spanish American Gold Coins

By WAYTE RAYMOND

The articles prepared by Mr. Raymond and published in the JOURNAL are now obtainable in book form. Many new illustrations have been added, showing, as far as is known, every type of Spanish American gold coins. The coinage tables from each mint are arranged in a manner that will permit easy and ready reference to the student. Mr. Howland Wood of the American Numismatic Society, has written in a very interesting manner, a general introduction to the work, and introductory chapters to each of the eight mints. Mr. Wood's histories of the mints are of special interest, as they tell not only the essential details but give a short compact historical sketch of each country and ruler. He has also included in the FOREWORD a table listing all the American mints under Spain, giving the different mint marks and the dates during which the mints were in operation.

Mr. Raymond has been interested in this series for nearly twenty years, and during the last five has spent much time and effort accumulating information for this book.

In size it is 6 bv 9 inches. Bound in the finest library cloth and beautifully illustrated in half-tones.

Price—$2.00 Postpaid

Struck Many Coins

Alexander the Great was everything his name implies. He is the best known of the ancient Greeks, his name being even today, a common byword in every country of the world.

Fortunately for numismatists, Alexander was one of the most prolific of all coiners. The bulk of his coinage consisted of handsome silver tetradrachms that were readily accepted in most parts of the ancient world.

During troublesome times, the ancients often buried their hoardings in the ground for safe keeping. And often they were forced to flee, leaving their fortunes behind them. Many finds of these coins have been unearthed. One alone, contained more than 20,000 coins.

From a recent find we have obtained a number of nice pieces.

Silver tetradrachm. Head of young Hercules in a lion's skin. The great god Zeus on the reverse, holding an eagle:

Very fine	$2.50
Other specimens, fine	2.00
Very good	1.50

Silver drachm. Same type as the larger coin:

Fine	$1.00
Very good	.75

Bullet Money of Siam

These curiously shaped pieces of silver were once used as money in Siam. It is not certain why or when they were first used, as all the official records of Siam were destroyed in 1767 when the Burmese sacked the city of Ayudhya.

They were last coined in the fourth reign of the Bangkok Dynasty, by King Mongkut, 1851-1868. We have the following pieces for sale. Issued by various rulers:

1	Tical (as illustrated)	$1.25
1/2	Tical	.85
1/4	Tical	.75
1/8	Tical	.65
1/16	Tical	.50

The set of 5 pcs. $3.50

A Rare World War Issue

In 1914 when the German army began marching towards Paris the French government hastily moved the mint head-quarters to Castelsarrasin, in the South of France. There the machinery was set up in working order and a small supply of silver one and two-franc pieces struck off. Instead of bearing the "A" mint-mark, which for centuries had been used at the Paris mint, they bore the mint-mark "C".

A year later, when it became fairly certain that the city of Paris would not be captured, the coining machinery was moved north again.

After the excitement of the war had somewhat abated, European numismatists soon exhausted the small issue from the Castelsarrasin mint. Today, so scarce are these pieces that they seldom appear on the market.

We have in stock one single set of the one and two-franc in an uncirculated condition. The first cash order gets these two coins for $12.00. Of the silver two-franc pieces we have three uncirculated specimens.

Price—$7.00 each.

Concave Gold Nomisma of The Byzantine Empire

These curious gold coins, thin and concave like little bowls or saucers, were first coined about the 11th century A.D. The devices are mostly of a religious character, portraying the emperor as well as Christ, the Virgin Mary and various of the saints.

We have the following selection in nice condition:

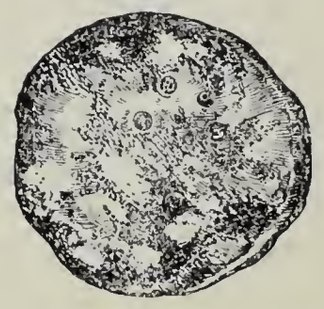
Michael VII. 1071-1078	$7.50
Alexius I. 1081-1118	8.00
John II. 1118-1143	8.00
Manuel I. 1143-1180	10.00
(Electrum)	7.50
Andronicus I. 1182 1185	12.50

A Set of British Colonial Coins

In the 25 years of his reign, King George V had many interesting and artistic coins struck for British colonies. Probably no other ruler of England better realized the importance of supplying each colony with an appropriate individual coinage.

It will be many months before King Edward VIII is portrayed on coins of the British Empire. In the meanwhile you will have an opportunity to start or continue a collection of English coins. We have a fine stock of British colonial coins and solicit your want list. For the beginner we offer a nice set of 50 British colonial coins. All different and in mint condition.

Many choice pieces—$5.00 Postpaid.



Willow Leaf Money of Burma

This odd looking coin is described by Reginald Le May, in his book "The Coinage of Siam", published in 1932 by the Siam Society. According to Mr. Le May these pieces are also to be found in circulation in Northern Siam, although their use is restricted solely to ceremonies of marriage and divorce. When a man marries he must pay so much in weight of these coins to the parents of his bride. If he divorces her, he must pay so much "release money." There are various kinds of this money in use, some of good grade silver, some of base silver and others of copper washed in silver. In shape they are almost flat though one side is slightly convex. One side is usually covered with a yellowish-red substance made, it is believed from the burnt yolk of a chicken's egg.

Many years ago we obtained a few of these curious pieces from a missionary who had been to Siam. Each piece is about an inch and a half in diameter and weighs about one ounce. The metal appears to be a silver alloy. We offer these at $3.75 each.

SET OF ROMAN ANTONINIANII.

All with head of emperor in radiated crown. With original silvering. One from each of the following emperors: Probus, 277-282; Carus, 282-283; Numerianus, 282-284; Carinus, 282-284; Diocletianus, 284-305; and Maximianus Herculeus, 286-305.

All coins in fine condition and ascribed in separate envelopes. For the series of six, $2.75.

Minor Coins of Bolivia

A collection of the minor coins of the Republic of Bolivia, being limited as to dates and varieties is not difficult to complete.

Two interesting varieties, and not at all common are the holed 5 and 10 centavo pieces of 1883. The same coins were issued in that year without the punched out center. Why the two varieties were issued we don't know. Perhaps some reader can tell us. Anyway, while the limited supply lasts, we offer the following set. All the pieces bear the Paris mint mark.

Nickel 5 and 10 centavos, holed, 1883

Nickel 5 and 10 centavos, not holed, 1883

Copper 1 and 2 centavos, not holed, 1883
In mint condition. Six pieces, 75 cents

A Selection of Crowns

We have a large and fine stock of dollar size silver coins. Most of these particular pieces have been off the market for many years, although we do carry a nice stock of the more ordinary kinds. This month we list, for your consideration a few of the better pieces:

Brunswick. New Wolfenbuttel Line. August, Death thaler, 1666. $10.00.

Groningen, Comm. Delivered from the Spaniards, thaler, 1594. $12.00.

Isles of France and Bonaparte, 10 Livres, 1810. $10.00.

Ortenburg, Christophor Widmann, Thaler, 1656. $20.00.

Pommerania, Bogislaus XIV, Thaler, 1633. $20.00.

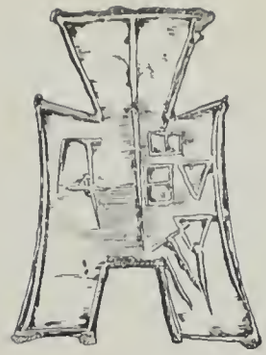
Prussia, 5 marks, 1874, Proof. $15.00.

Sweden, Christina Salvator thaler, 1642. $6.00.

Sweden, Charles XI, 8 marks. $10.00.

Teutonic Order. Charles Alex. of Lorraine, Conv. thaler. $12.50.

Wurtemburg, 5 marks, 1876. $15.00.



Bronze Pu Money of Ancient China

From the 6th to the 3rd centuries B.C. these bronze pieces circulated as money in China. It is supposed they are a sort of degenerated form of the earlier bronze spade money.

The names of more than 14 different cities have been found on this particular type of pu. We have a few pieces from the City of Lang-ya, now Tsing-tchou. They are in a remarkable state of preservation.

65 cents each.

A Commemorative Coin of A.D. 202

One of the few constructive deeds of the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus was performed on his visit to Africa in the year A.D. 202. While at Carthage, which was then a Roman colony, he bestowed many benefits upon the people. He revoked many of the old laws that he considered unjust, and gave the native citizens a fairly liberal form of self-government. Being not adverse to publicity he commemorated his action on a coin, as did most of the ancient rulers when they did something they thought remarkable.

The coin, illustrated above, shows on the obverse the portrait of Severus with the legend SEVERVS. PIVS. AVG. (ustus). On the reverse is shown the African goddess Cybele seated on a rushing lion. The accompanying inscription reads INDVLGENTIA. AVGG. IN. CARTH. This is one of the most interesting coins struck by Severus. We have a few nice specimens priced at $1. each.

Some Inexpensive Sets

Argentine. Nickel 20, 10, and 5 centavos 3 pcs. 35 cents.

Spain, Silver peseta of 1933 and nickel 25 centavos of 1934.
The pair, 45 cents.

Irish Free State, Nickel six-pence, three-pence. Bronze penny, half-penny and farthing.
The set, $1.00.

Persia, Coinage of Reza Shah, silver 1, 2 and 5 kran.
Set, $2.25.

An Italian Colonial Coin

The most interesting and handsome of modern Italian colonial coins is the silver rupee struck for circulation in Italian Somaliland. That country, long under Moslem influence, has been slow in adopting the customs of the western world, and even today coins circulate only in limited areas.

We offer a few pieces as illustrated, in fine condition, for $1.00 each.

Conditions of Sale

Each piece is guaranteed genuine. We have been careful not to overrate the condition of any coin. In instances where we have on hand, only one or two pieces of the coins listed, the orders first received are filled. We cannot guarantee to supply others at the same price.

Terms: Net cash in advance. Orders for less than $5 must be accompanied by cost of postage and registration. Any items found unsatisfactory may be returned within five days. Please make all remittances payable to

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Publications of the American Numismatic Society

The Coinage of the Mexican Revolutionists,
by Howland Wood, 1928. 53 pp. 15 pls. $2.50.

The Coinage of Metapontum,
by Sydney P. Noe, 1927 Part I. 134 pp. 23 pls. $3.00. 1931 Part II. 134 pp. 43 pls. $3.00.

The Symbols on Staters of Corinthian Type,
by Jean B. Cammann (A Catalogue), 1932. 130 pp. 14 dble. pls. $3.00.

The Coinage of Aegina,
by Samuel R. Milbank, 1925. 66 pp. 5 pls. $2.00.

Aes Signatum,
by T. L. Comparette, 1919. 61 pp. 8 pls. $1.25.

The Copper Tokens of Upper Canada,
by R. W. McLachlan, 1916. 16 pp. 4 pls. $1.50.

Reattribution of Certain Tetradrachms of Alexander the Great,
by Edward T. Newell, 1918. 62 pp. 30 pls. $5.00.

Coinage of the West Indies,
by Howland Wood, 1914. 48 pp. Illus. Bound in buckram. $5.00.

A Descriptive Catalogue of Greek Coins Selected from the Cabinet of Clarence S. Bement, Esq.
by T. L. Comparette, 1921. 107 pp. 25 pls. $3.75.

The Gampola Larin Hoard,
by Howland Wood, 1934. 84 pp. 10 dble. pls. $3.00.

United States Postage Stamps as Necessity War Money,
by Henry R. Drowne, 6 pp. 2 pls. 50 cents.

Indian Peace Medals,
by Bauman L. Belden, 1927, 46 pp. 22 pls. $5.00.

United States War Medals,
by Bauman L. Belden, 1916, 72 pp. 10 pls. $2.00.

Coinage of Demetrius Poliorcetes,
by Edward T. Newell, 1927. 174 pp. 18 pls., bound in boards. $5.00.

Breton on Canadian Coins

In 1894, P. Napoleon Breton, the distinguished Canadian numismatist, published his History of the Coins and Tokens of Canada. Since then it has been the standard reference work on Canadian coins. The text, written in both English and French, gives the history, complete description and degree of rarity of all known Canadian coins and tokens. It is illustrated with 1,028 engravings. We have a few copies for sale. Finely bound in cloth. Size 6½ by 10 inches. New condition.

Very scarce $3.50 Postpaid

Unbound copies of the 1912 edition, unused $1.00 pp. This edition is an abbreviation of the earlier one, although it gives all the illustrations.

Text Book on Roman Coins

A Guide to the Exhibition of Roman Coins in the British Museum. This text book written by Mr. Harold Mattingly of the British Museum, tells in an interesting manner, the story of Roman coinage from the earliest times up until the fall of the Empire. A splendid text book for the beginner both from the numismatic and historical viewpoint. Contains an index and bibliography. 8 vo. boards with 8 plates and 11 figures. 1927. Price $1.00 Postpaid.

For The Collector of English Coins

ENGLISH COINS, by G. C. Brooke fulfils a want long felt by collectors. It fully describes the coinage of England from A.D. 600 to the present day. The coins are classified in a manner easily understood, and profusely illustrated in collotype.

Aside from listing all regular issues, a full chapter is devoted to the many interesting English pattern coins. A carefully prepared index and a selected bibliography adds to its usefulness.

Octavo size. Finely bound in cloth. 277 pp. 64 plates.

Price—$5.00 Postpaid.

Book on Store Cards

To be off the press shortly is the reprint of Wayte Raymond's articles on Early New York City and State Store Cards. It has been entirely revised, some new illustrations added and each token given its own number for the convenience of collectors in cataloguing and adding to their collections. This book will be the same size of the Journal, six by nine inches. Bound in stiff board covers. Price 50 cents Postpaid.

Your Numismatic Library

It is important for the collector if he wishes to receive the most amount of pleasure from his hobby, that he proceed upon fairly well defined lines. In coin collecting it is easy to enjoy oneself without spending a large amount of time and money on reference books. There have been published innumerable books on the subject that are concise and easy to understand.

A small though carefully selected library will help the collector in knowing and buying coins. The books and publications that we believe to be the most useful to the average collector will, from time to time, be listed in Coin Topics. Selling numismatic reference books means selling more coins, so we have tried to price these books as low as possible.

Aside from the books advertised here, we have a considerable number of reference books on various phases of numismatics. When time permits we will issue a list of these books. Meanwhile, we will be glad to report on any book you may need.

Historical References on

Coins of the Roman Empire, from Augustus to Gallienus. By Rev. Edward A. Sydenham, M.A. A useful reference work for the collector who is interested in the historical significance of the Imperial coinage. Published by Spink & Son, London, in 1917. Size 6½ by 10 inches. 155 pp. Many half-tone illustrations. Paper covers. Out of print. Price—$7.50.

A Guide to the Principal Coins of the Greeks

This work is a chronological treatise on Greek coins from 700 B.C. to A.D. 270, based on the work of Barclay V. Head.

The coinage has been divided into seven periods and the representative coins of each period have been treated individually. In selecting the coins illustrated and described, the author has kept in view the historic, artistic and numismatic importance of each piece.

Published by the British Museum, Department of Coins and Medals. Contains fifty plates of beautiful halftones. 106 pp. Size 8 by 10 inches. Indexed. Bound in finest library cloth. Price $6.00.

All books and publications listed are sent post free. We cannot send books or publications on approval.

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